



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.



Since 1993, the
Sierra Nevada Alliance
has been protecting
and restoring Sierra
land, water, wildlife,
and communities

A scenic photograph of a mountain range. A prominent, rounded mountain peak is visible on the left, with a rainbow arching across the sky in front of it. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The foreground shows dark, silty slopes and distant mountain ranges.

Sierra Nevada Alliance Mission

*to protect and restore the natural environment of
the Sierra for future generations while ensuring
healthy and sustainable communities*

Sierra Nevada Alliance

Regional Network


- Established network with over a 100 groups
- Watershed Program Goals:
 - *Ensure that Sierra watersheds have active, informed efforts to restore and protect their rivers, lakes and streams thereby protecting critical habitats and restoring watershed health*
 - *Build the organizational and technical capacity of collaborative watershed groups*





NPS Pollution in the Sierra

23 out of 24 major watersheds are impaired



Sierra NPS due to mismanagement of:

- *Agriculture*
- *Forestry* (silviculture)
- *Development* (e.g. from construction sites, roads and highways, and septic systems)
- *Marinas and watercraft*
- *Dams and diversions*
- *Resource extraction* (mining)

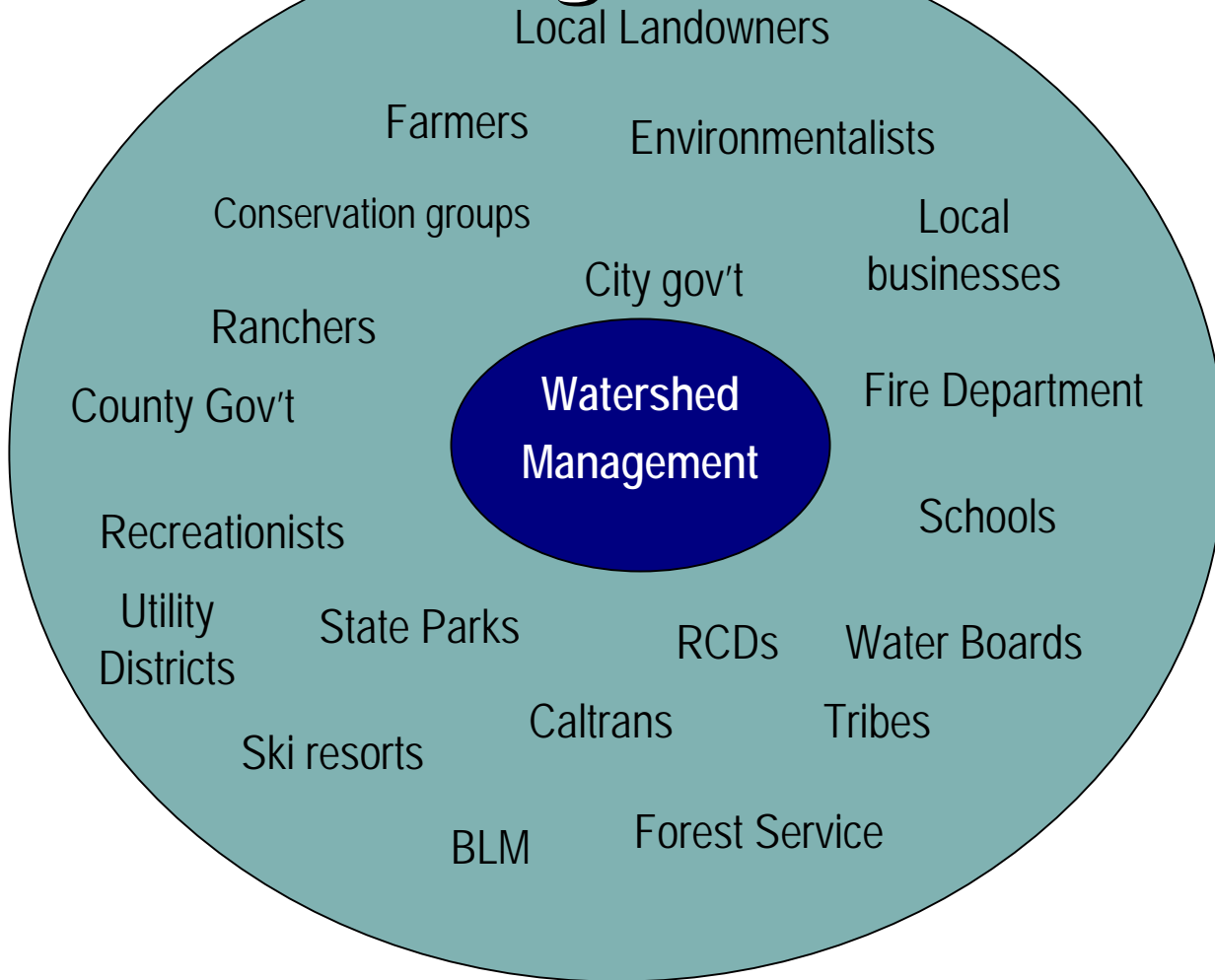


Address NPS
pollution through

Collaborative Watershed Groups


Collaborative Watershed

Management



Imagine if we all were having the same discussion...

Collaborative WS groups Key to WS health

- 
- A group of five people are gathered outdoors in a natural setting with trees and a hillside in the background. They are standing around a wooden table that is covered with various tools, including shovels, axes, and a box of Glad ForceFlex gloves. One person is wearing a yellow cap, another a green cap, and a third a blue jacket. The scene suggests a collaborative work project, possibly related to environmental stewardship or land management.
- ✓ Creates stewardship mentality
 - ✓ More hands on deck
 - ✓ Increased buy-in
 - ✓ Working together
 - ✓ Pollution prevention (small projects can lead to TMDL beginnings)

Strengthening Local Efforts to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution in the Sierra

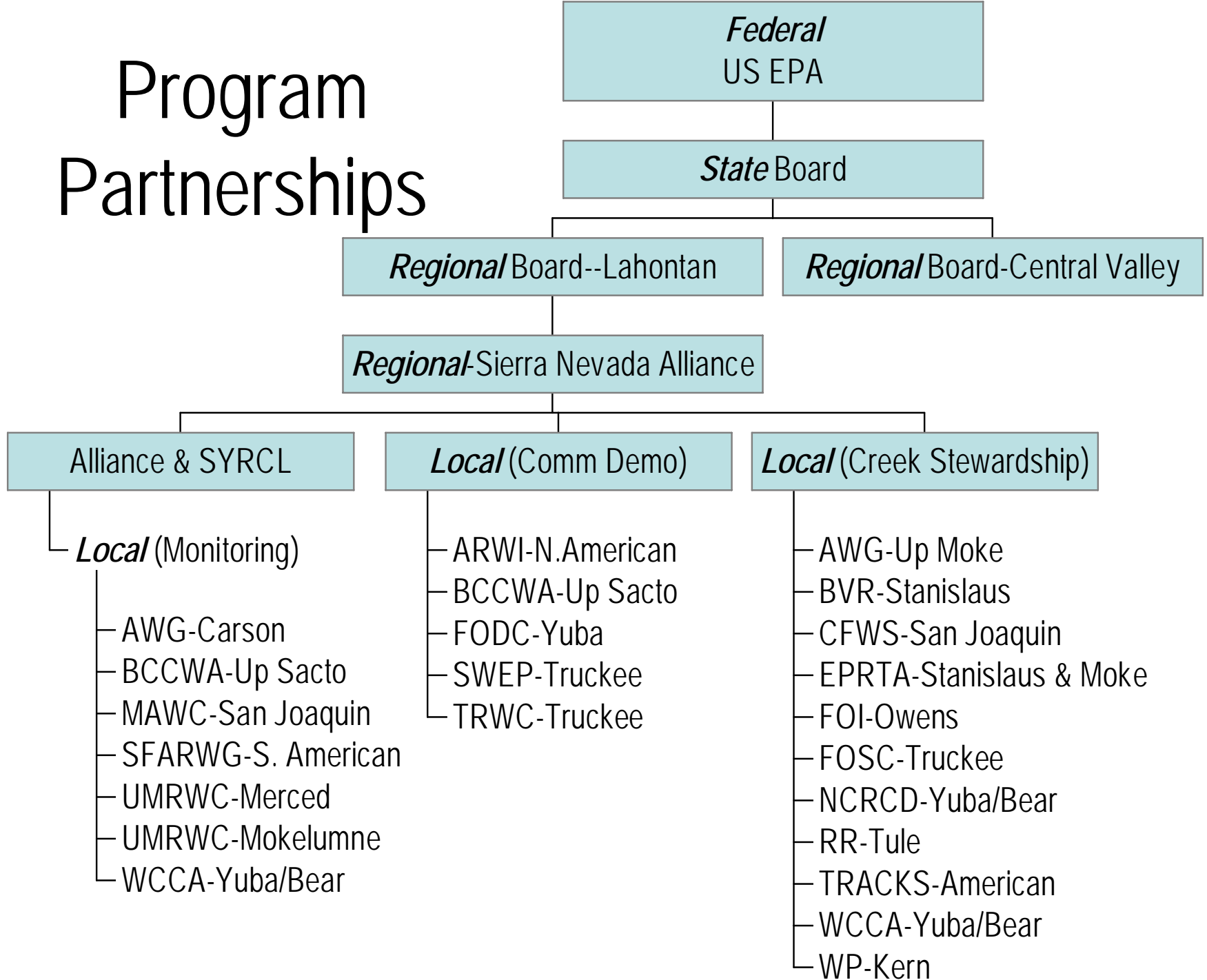


Alliance Regional Partnerships NPS Program

A photograph of a person in a blue shirt and a wide-brimmed hat walking away from the camera in a grassy field. They are carrying a white bucket and a bundle of sticks. In the background, another person is visible near a stream, and there are mountains in the distance.

- Working with small local groups:
 - NGO Capability to work with small groups
 - Pressure off State Board to manage large load of contracts with small groups
- Capacity building
 - Taught groups how to handle contracts
 - Now have ability to handle larger contracts
 - Implemented NPS projects
 - Proved capability

Program Partnerships



Strengthening Local Efforts to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution in the Sierra

Addressing impairments by:

Assessing

Restoring

Educating



Strengthening Local Efforts....



**Starting volunteer water-quality
monitoring programs**

Monitoring Program Partnerships



SYRCL



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Monitoring Programs started throughout the range...

Established 7 volunteer monitoring programs in 2004 & 2005:

- o Alpine Watershed Group (*Carson*)
- o Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance (*Upper Sacramento*)
- o Millerton Area Watershed Coalition (*San Joaquin*)
- o South Fork American River Watershed Council (*American*)
- o Upper Merced River Watershed Council (*Merced*)
- o Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Council (*Mokelumne*)
- o Wolf Creek Community Alliance (*Yuba*)

Monitoring Program Components

A group of approximately ten people are gathered on a rocky riverbed, likely participating in a streamwalk survey. One person is crouching in the foreground, possibly demonstrating a technique or pointing out a feature. The others are standing and observing. The background shows a wooded area with bare trees, suggesting a cool season.

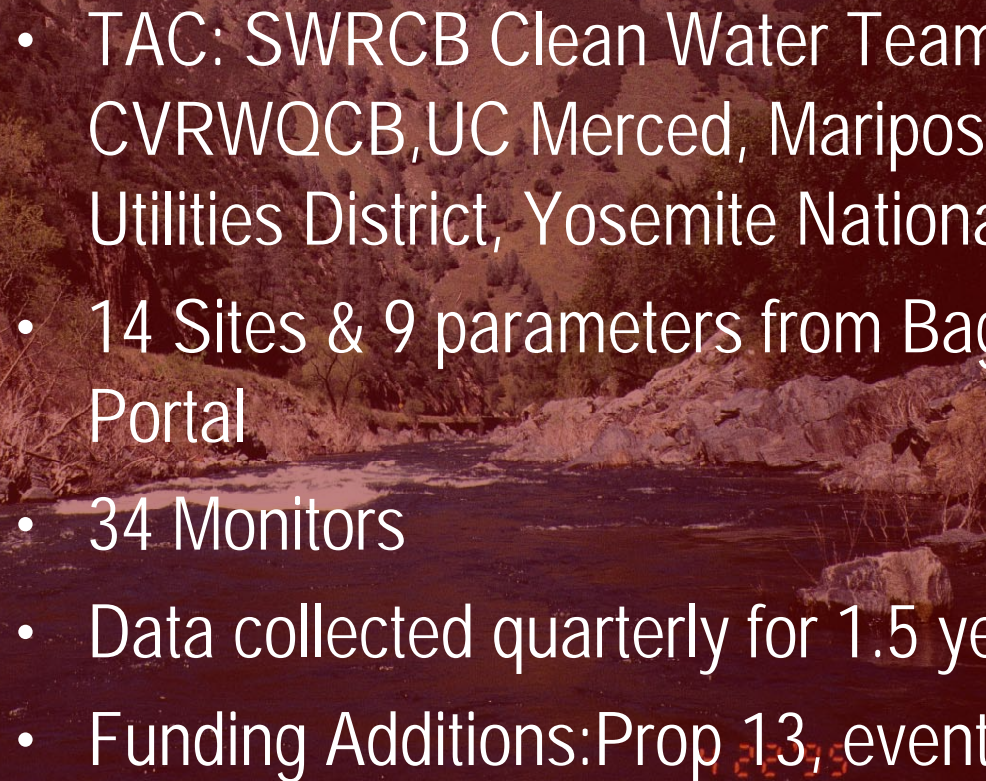
- **Organizational**
 - *Monitoring Work Plan*
 - *QAPP*
 - *Equipment*
 - *Template database*
 - *Field procedures manual*
- **Trainings**
 - *Orientation*
 - *Field training*
 - *First Monitoring Day*
 - *Streamwalk Survey and Photo-monitoring*

Monitoring Program Case Example

Upper Merced River

Watershed Council



- 
- TAC: SWRCB Clean Water Team, CVRWQCB, UC Merced, Mariposa Public Utilities District, Yosemite National Park
 - 14 Sites & 9 parameters from Bagby to El Portal
 - 34 Monitors
 - Data collected quarterly for 1.5 years
 - Funding Additions: Prop 13, event fundraisers

Monitoring Program Improvements...



- ✓ 7 Monitoring Programs
- ✓ 7 Collaborative Technical Advisory Committees
- ✓ 150+ Monitors
- ✓ 1.5 Years worth of monitoring data on 7 watersheds

Strengthening Local



Supporting Community
Demonstration
“Restoration” Project

Community Demo Project Partners

American River Watershed Institute

- Project to compare the effects on water quality of different vegetation treatments of burned and unburned forestlands

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance

- Project to redesign and re-grade an existing gravel road to reduce the erosion of sediment to Big Chico Creek

Friends of Deer Creek

- Project to reduce sediment erosion to Squirrel Creek by removing non-native plants and replacing them with native plants. They are also investigating the source of algae growth in the creek.

Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships

- Project to capture storm water runoff on a school site in Tahoe City by filtering water through garden planters

Truckee River Watershed Council

- Project to restore natural hydrologic functions to Davies Creek while restoring the natural meadow
- Trail improvement project along Martis Creek

Community Demonstration Restoration Project

Case Example

Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance



Community Demonstration Program Improvements....



This photo shows a rolling dip dispersing water off the road into the vegetated area.

Strengthening Local Efforts



Watershed Restoration
Workshop and Field Tour

Restoration Workshop/Tour

Partnership

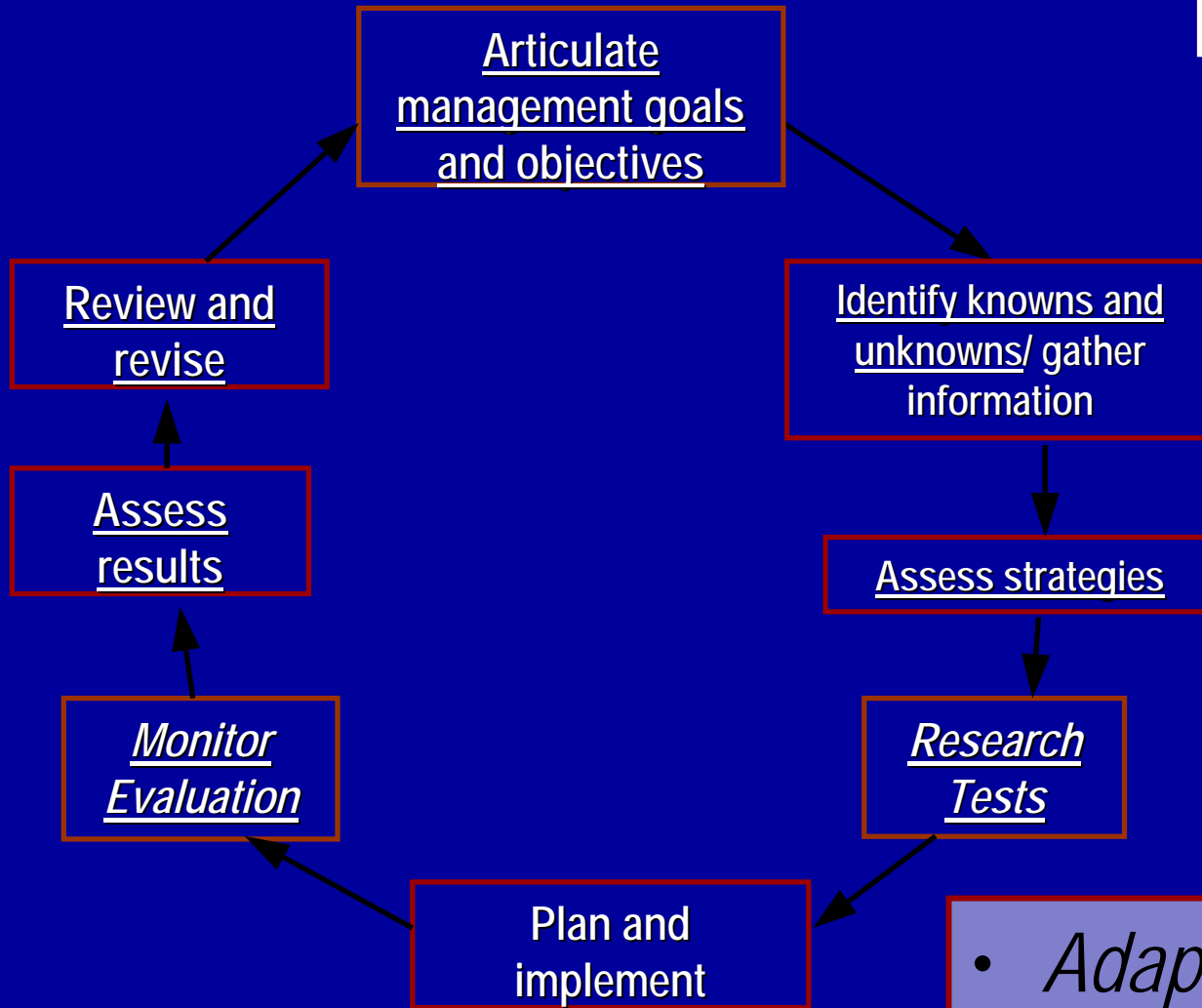
Representation

40 Participants from:

- *13 Major Sierra Watersheds*
 - ✓ *14 Collaborative Watershed Groups*
 - ✓ *5 Conservation Groups*
 - ✓ *2 State Agencies*
 - ✓ *2 Regional Agencies*
 - ✓ *Plus: Local government, UC-Davis, Caltrans, Coldsprings Rancheria, Sierra Valley RCD, and Consultants*



Restoration Workshop & Field Tour



- *Adaptive Management*
- *Restoration Planning*
- *Success Criteria*

Strengthening Local Efforts....



Watershed Education

Watershed Education Goals



To steward their rivers, lakes and streams
&
Get Involved with Watershed Management

Watershed Education

- Presentations

- *Conducting presentations to inspire new stewards and groups*

- Stewardship “Creek days”

- *Forming new partnerships to address watershed issues in their community*
- *Controlling non-point source pollution (small-scale)*
- *Educating the Community*
- *Helping start new watershed groups, building capacity*

Watershed Education Creekday Partners

Ebbetts Pass Rivers and Trails Alliance- *Stanislaus & Mokelumne*
WildPlaces—*Kern*

Friends of the Inyo—*Owens*

Nevada Co. RCD/ Bear WS Group—*Yuba*

Bear Valley Residents—*Stanislaus*

Alpine Watershed Group—*Mokelumne*

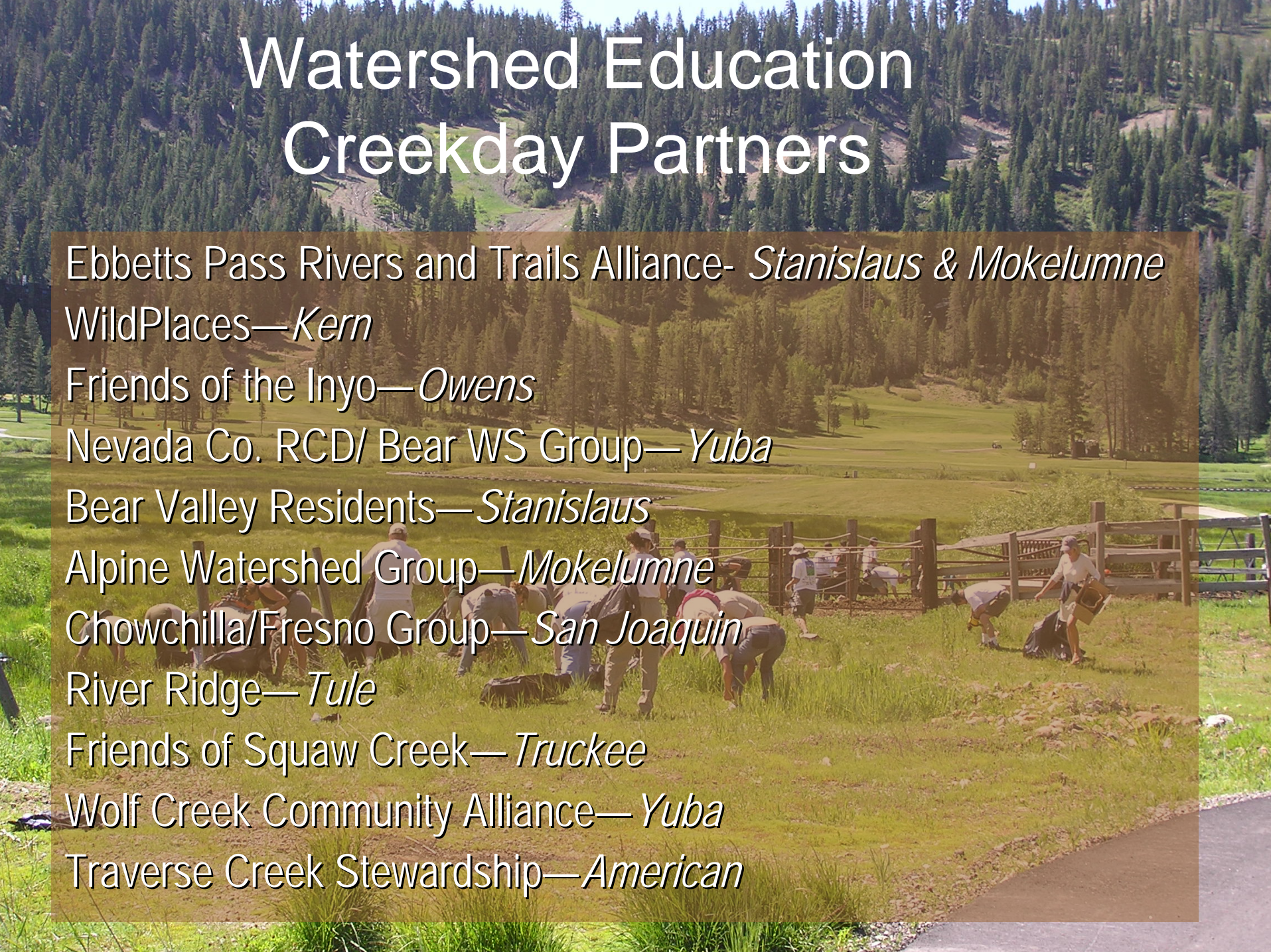
Chowchilla/Fresno Group—*San Joaquin*

River Ridge—*Tule*

Friends of Squaw Creek—*Truckee*

Wolf Creek Community Alliance—*Yuba*

Traverse Creek Stewardship—*American*



A photograph of a creek day event. In the center, a group of people are gathered around a table covered with a white cloth. A woman in a light blue shirt is leaning over the table, possibly demonstrating something. A man in a grey shirt and a baseball cap is standing next to her, looking at the table. Another person is partially visible behind them. To the right, a woman in a black top is looking towards the group. In the background, there are more people and trees. The scene is outdoors in a wooded area with a creek in the background.

WS Education Creekday Case Example TRACKS~ Traverse Creek Stewardship

Identified Sub-basin for water quality degradation:
Edu Project ~Stewardship Creek day on April 30th 2005

Watershed Education

Creek Day

Improvements

Traverse Creek Stewardship

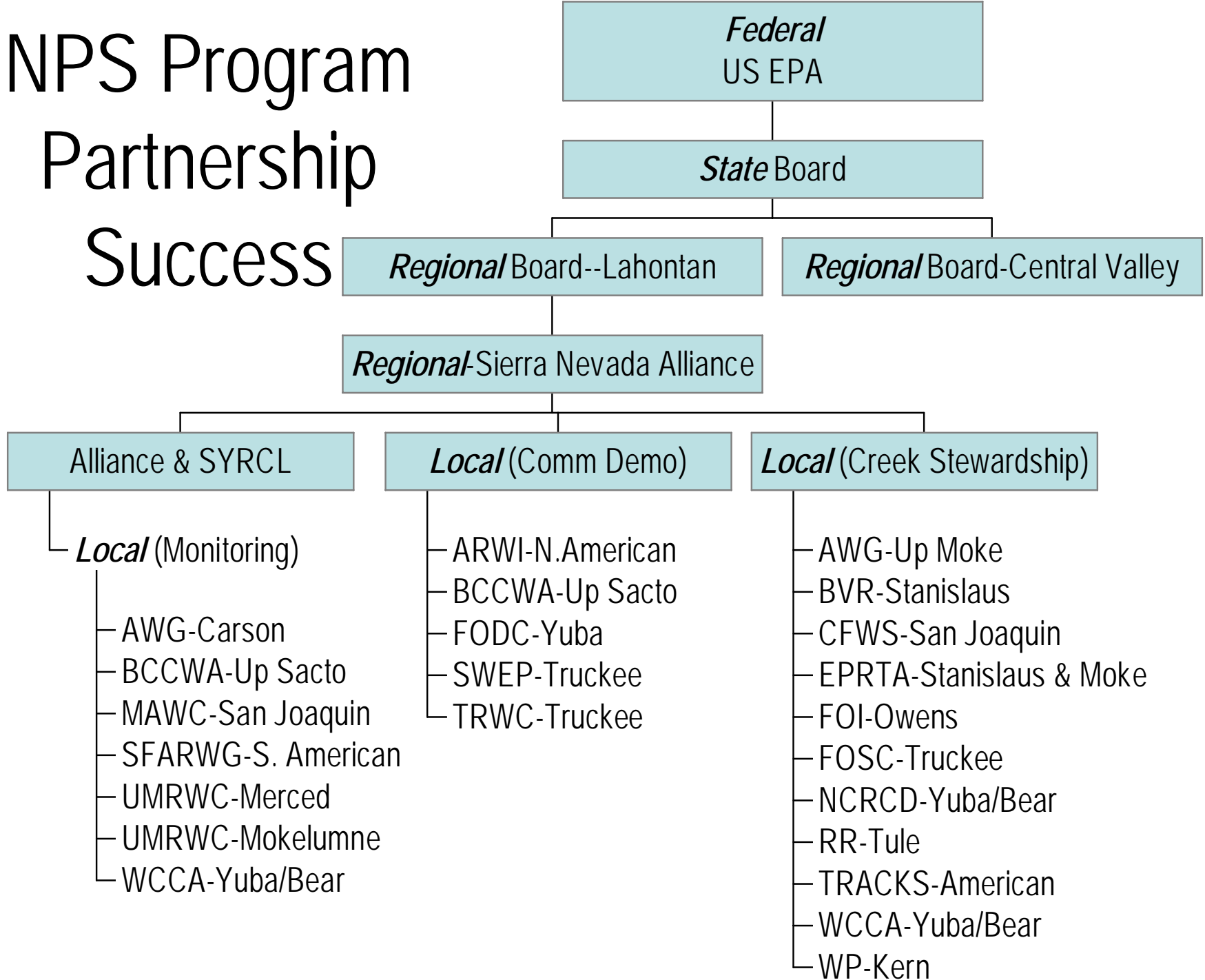
- ~ Started a volunteer water quality monitoring program
 - Monitor 5 sites monthly with 12 volunteers
 - BMI monitoring at 3 sites monthly
 - Monthly meetings
- ~ A day in the creek planned for April 29, 2006



Partnerships are key to successful NPS Management



NPS Program Partnership Success



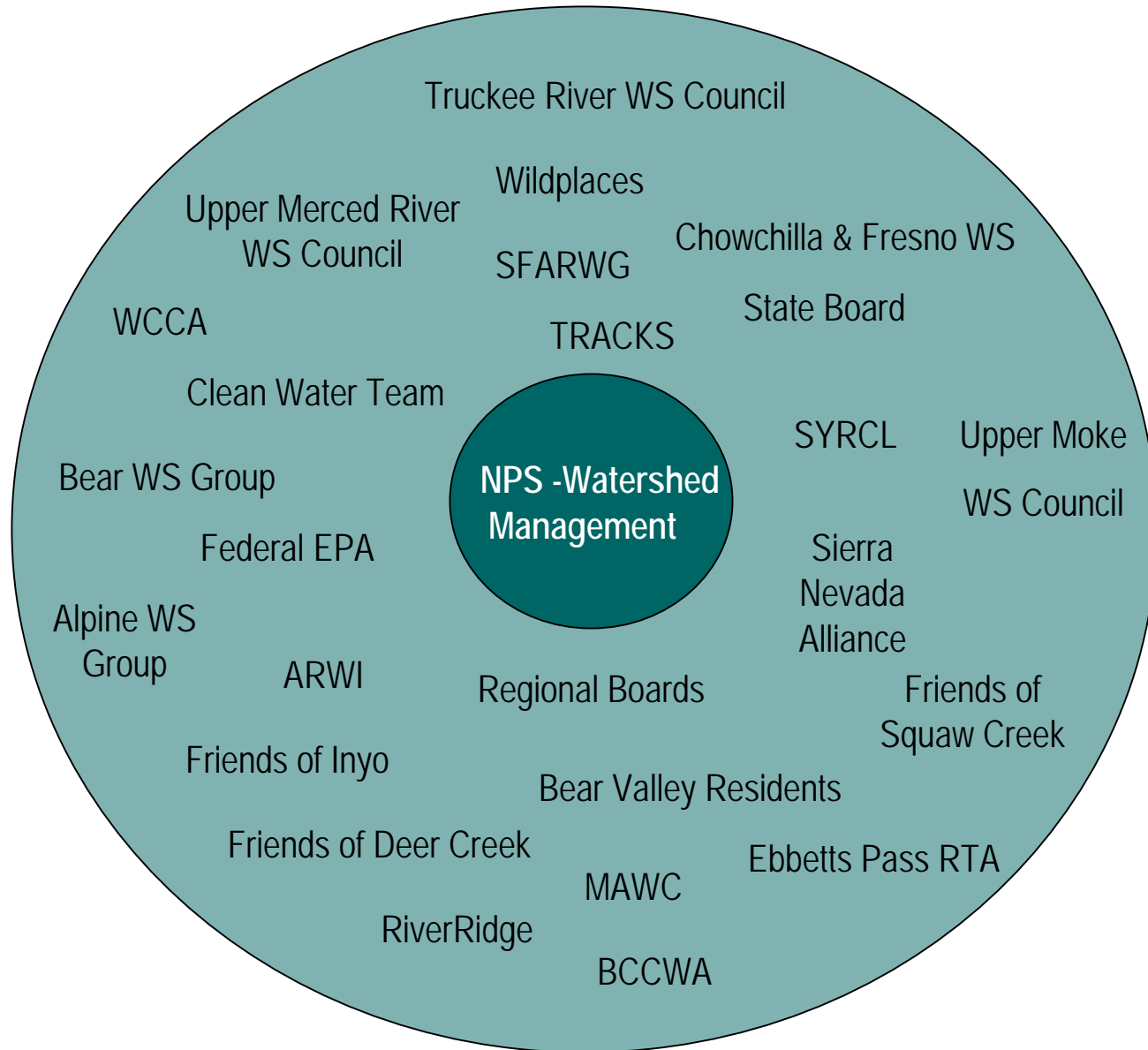
What it looks
like today...



Examples of Grant Improvements

- NPS work on 12 Sierra watersheds
- 7 new monitoring programs
- 150 new volunteer monitors
- 6 NPS restoration projects
- New stewardship groups

Partnership Improvements in the Sierra



Recommendations

- Continue to do regional re-granting/contracting
- Help WS groups diversify funding sources to sustain their stewardship
- Communicate clear required performance measures at the beginning of the grant



Contact the Sierra Nevada Alliance for more information:

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